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“Talking Frankly” about David Irving

A Critical Analysis of David Irving's Statement on the Holocaust

By Hadding Scott

Published: 2016-05-24

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What to say about David Irving?

I was not an expert on anything that David Irving discussed in his “Talking Frankly” video when I began writing about it last April. I am still not really an expert on these matters, but the more I checked his claims, the more I realized that any claim made by David Irving must be checked, because with incredible frequency he distorts the meanings of documents and invents episodes as needed to serve his ultimate purpose of creating an interesting story full of paradox, intrigue, and suspense – and lately, of escaping the label “Holocaust Denier.”

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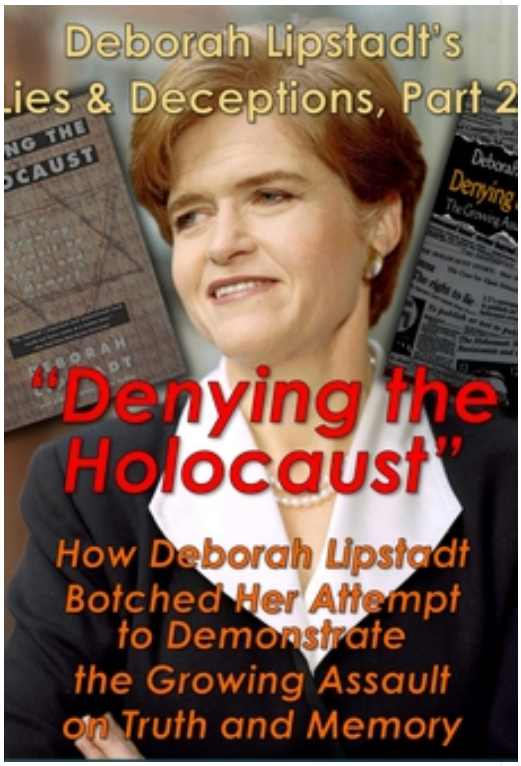
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I do not dislike David Irving. I have to say that David Irving is an entertaining storyteller, and he has produced some interesting nuggets of information (some of which might even be true). As an expert on documents, he is awesome. He speaks in a compelling manner. But at this point I do not trust the man's interpretations of anything. To the extent that what he says about the Holocaust in "Talking Frankly" may be presumed to represent his normal level of historical veracity, I would not rely on David Irving as a source of "real history." He may not really be worse than mainstream historians, but he is far from being the heroic truthteller that he likes to portray, which I used to think he was.

Presumably, a good bit of what David Irving said about the Holocaust in "Talking Frankly" has been destined to appear in his long-overdue biography of Heinrich Himmler. One can hope that with awareness of being scrutinized Mr. Irving will become more careful and produce a more serious book that gives less than full expression to his penchant for fiction.

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